

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME IV.

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NUMBER 11.

THE ever vigilant Santa Fe comes to the front with a new project. The latest is to build a line to Chicago by way of St. Joe. They have already purchased property in St. Joe to the amount of \$250,000. Their object, it is said, is to build from Atchison to that city and thence direct to Chicago. This is a retaliatory move against the Rock Island for invading their territory in Kansas.

SOME people who have been proclaiming for the past three months that the boom in western Kansas was destined to end with this year, will now have an opportunity of fixing another time for the end of the great boom. There is no prospect of our boom ending until the thousands of fertile acres which have never been furrowed are covered with waving fields of corn and wheat. One who has never been here can not realize the boundless resources which are yet to be developed.

If a man desires to fall in love with Kansas he should travel through the state now. On every hand he will see fields of waving corn promising rich harvests to the husbandman. The farm-houses are all comparatively new and somehow have a thrifty and contented look. The horses and cattle are fat and sleek, evidencing the rich pasturage found every where without price or money. No man can go through Kansas at this season without feeling that it is a goodly land where peace and plenty abide.

It is our duty to again call the attention of the authorities to the fast driving on our principal streets, particularly South Main street. Almost daily some belated traveler jumps into a hack and tears down the street to catch a train, regardless of people who may be on the crossings or driving on the streets, and young bloods, (and old ones too,) who wish to "show off" an imaginary fast team, whip up when they get upon a main thoroughfare where the attention of the people will be attracted to the turn out.

How much better would Main street look if we had handsome and substantial stone pavements along the business part of it. Our council passed an ordinance recently prohibiting the putting down of any but stone sidewalks within certain limits. We think there are a number of places now where the old, worn out wooden walks should be condemned and new pavements put down. We are proud of our town, and shall make all reasonable efforts to improve it whenever possible.

THE young prairie chickens are beginning to "p-e-e-p, p-e-e-p," from out the labyrinths of the waving blue-stem; the plump cheeked sand hill plumbs will soon put on their usual rosy hue, and the timid(?) politician begins to stretch out his feelers and suggest to the opposition party who they should put up for a candidate for county office. Brother Chapman has shaken the dust out of his feathers, and begun to let fly a few strokes at the trouble giving mugwumps; but the price of real estate in Great Bend and Barton county is still on the rise.

A READER of the DEMOCRAT has requested us to say which one of the towns in Hamilton county is really the county seat. It will be remembered that it was at first reported that Coolidge had defeated Syracuse in a recent election, and afterwards the news came that Kendall was still holding the fort, or at least holding the books. The fact is no decision can be made until it is decided by the supreme court whether the election last fall was legal. If decided in the affirmative Syracuse will be the county seat. But if it is decided that it was illegal then we presume the whole matter will go back to the people and Kendall will remain the county seat until an election shall decide the question.

THERE is no doubt that the discovery of natural gas, or rather its application, for it has long been known, is destined to work a great change in the country. Many towns which would otherwise have always remained villages will make great cities, and on the other hand some large cities which have had great prestige as manufacturing centers will find themselves unable to compete with their more fortunate neighbors. If Great Bend could only prove the existence of natural gas here we could compete with any city in manufacturing either in the east or west. No subject of more importance has ever been discussed by our people and it behooves us to discuss it fully realizing its significance.

It appears that the fight between Dodge City and Garden City is to be continued. Now, whether there is anything in it for either city is very doubtful. At least there is nothing but bad blood and bad feelings on both sides. Such fights may serve to give a transient boom to one of the places, but do no permanent good to either.

THE newspapers of Western Kansas have made a custom of talking so much about every rain that falls that eastern people are inclined to believe that it is a rare thing for us to have rains. The fact of the matter is that we are having plenty of rain at present, though we were a little dry in the early spring. And the prospects are now that we shall have one of the finest crops ever seen in Western Kansas.

#### Sudden Death.

Wednesday noon Mr. Wm. Race, who lived about three miles south of the river, and who was well-known by our citizens generally, ate a hearty dinner, lay down on a lounge for a rest and in fifteen minutes was a corpse—dying quietly and peacefully. He was some 50 years of age, and had not been feeling unusually bad. The doctors pronounce neuralgia of the heart the cause of his death.

#### China Wedding.

Thursday evening being the twentieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. B. Markey a number of their friends assembled to celebrate the event. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Charley Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Newcomb, Misses Grace Rankin, Dora Deleplane, Dilla Pratt, Messrs. Sid Newcomb, Dimit, Geit, and probably a few others whose names we failed to get. The pun of the evening was something like this: Go it dim it. Everybody had a fine time.

#### Killed by Lightning.

Friday evening while the rain was falling, about twenty miles north of Great Bend, in union township, one of those sudden deaths occurred which send a thrill of horror through the frame, and causes the mind to reflect upon the uncertainty of life. Barney Newbey, a man hardly past the prime of life, and being in the full flush of health, was instantly stricken down by lightning. He had gone out upon the prairie to bring in a cow that was on the picket rope. The same stroke killed both man and cow, and when found, the two were lying at least thirty feet apart. But two small, crimson spots were found on the body of the man, they being on the stomach. He leaves a wife and six small children.

#### POISONED.

A case of accidental poisoning occurred Sunday in the east end of the city that might have resulted fatally to a number of people, and may yet prove so to some of them. It appears that what were supposed to be mushrooms were gathered and prepared for dinner, and were eaten freely by Mrs. Kem Woodburn and Mrs. Beckwith and her three children. About three o'clock they were all taken deathly sick. Dr. Hess was called and found them in a very critical state. He immediately sent for Dr. Chester, and together they worked with the afflicted ones, and in the evening all were doing better, although Mrs. Beckwith and the youngest child were still dangerously prostrated. This mistaking of common toad stool for mushrooms has so often been the death of unsuspecting ones, that people had better forego the luxury of a dish of mushrooms rather than take the risk involved.

#### LATER.

Dr. Hess informs us that all parties are now out of danger, provided care is taken, and no unforeseen accident occurs.

The court house is receiving a coat of paint outside and the work should be well done and the material used of the best. We do not say that this is not the case now, but it is certainly evident to the most casual observer that that which was put on the last time was worthless in quality. Work on public buildings should be the best that can be obtained, and we hope the commissioners will see to it that oil is used and not merely water and some mineral earth, as that appears to have been the last time it was painted.

There seems to be some very good tidings in store for the citizens of our town. The Chicago, Kansas and Texas railroad company have taken out their charter and will commence work immediately. As much as we can learn, their road will run by way of Ellsworth and Ellinwood, and from here to St. John, going south through the Indian Territory to Texas. This will give us an outlet north and south. We would call the attention of our committee on booms to the necessary steps to bring this new pending railroad affair in better shape. Let us do all we can to promote this step in the right direction.—Ellinwood Express.

#### FROM CLARENCE.

They are everywhere—mosquitoes.

Three inches of rain fell Friday night.

Services were held at the Lutheran church Sunday.

Mr. Frank Cline is attending court as a juror at Great Bend.

Mr. H. Carstensen was down to the metropolis Saturday.

Miss Lohmiller recently closed a very successful term of school at Dist. No. 11.

The Pawnee Rock man "who has raised himself from obscurity" is a daisy.

Mr. Martin Hemphkin's new residence will be ready for occupancy in a few days.

"Is it hot enough for you?" demands the fiend to whom this chestnut is addicted.

The corn prospects are very brilliant, and the farmer's smile is correspondingly bright.

The many friends of Mrs. M. Jurgensen will be pleased to learn that she is rapidly recovering from her recent illness.

If the typo who sat up the last Clarence communication is truly repentant, and will explain that he should have put it "grandeur" instead of "grandmaw," the "Buckeye" will reluctantly desist from the crime which he contemplates.

The copious showers which have been so frequent of late, have had a tendency to cure long faces, and so greatly improve the wheat prospects, that the farmer's granary groans in anticipation of the burden it will have to bear after harvest.

#### BUCKEYE.

#### ELLINWOOD ITEMS.

Boom is our motto.

Hogs are worth \$3.65 now.

Where is the night marshal.

Big railroad meeting last Wednesday.

Harvesting began Thursday north-east of Ellinwood.

Illon. H. J. Rietzel was up to the county seat on business Monday.

Mayor H. W. Bockemuhl and lady returned from their visit to Ohio last Sunday.

Quite a number of Ellinwood people visited the picnic north of Ellinwood Thursday. A fine time was had.

John Schwertfeger returned from his trip to New York Tuesday morning. He reports crops in the eastern part of the state booming.

J. J. Plank, of Stafford, a former citizen of this city, was down to see Ellinwood. He says that Ellinwood has changed remarkably since he had been here last.

Thieves entered the Store of F. A. Steckel last Sunday night and the rascals got away with about \$50 in goods. They gained entrance through the cellar, breaking the iron bars from the windows. It is about time that the business men should employ a good night watchman.

The Chicago, Kansas and Texas Railway company will surely build their road through Ellinwood. There are enough reasons why it will and should by rights come to this city. Ellinwood lies in its direct course and the enterprising people of this city are doing everything in their power to get it. These other neighboring cities figuring on the road cannot get it, as a committee have already had a conference with the gentlemen in Topeka, we understand.

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